

**Charter Township of Comstock  
Parks & Recreation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Linda Law, Judy Joling, Teresa Young, John Weir, Sharon Spears  
Staff Present: Vanessa Street, Parks Director and Rachel Hopkins, Parks program Coordinator  
16-18 Citizens in attendance

Call to Order by Chairperson, Linda Law

Public Input Meeting (7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.): A public input meeting was held regarding a "Fishing Deck Project" for Robert Morris Park. Parks Director Vanessa Street presented the project as might be described in a grant application, and citizens in attendance then provided feedback. Due to the questions and concerns of citizens and the later commission discussion, additional information and more public input will be sought at future meetings before proceeding with a grant application.

Concerns generally focused on three areas: (1) priority (need relative to resources and other priorities), (2) monitoring of park users (perceived problems with more use/visitors not following park rules, e.g. diving-off/misuse of deck), and (3) technical project questions (deck cement placement in lowland, long length/safety, and lake bioburden load from bait/birds/trash), especially when next to the swimming area. (see notes recorded by Teresa Young, Feb. 13, 2017).

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting: 8:00 P.M.- 9:05 P.M.

**1. Review of the Minutes from January 9, 2017:**

Motion by Joling/support from Spears to accept Minutes as presented.  
Motion to approve Minutes: 5Yes/0 No

**2. Bills Payable:**

Motion by Weir/support from Spears to approve Bills payable as presented.  
Motion to approve Bill Payable: 5 Yes/0 No

**3. Correspondence:** None

**4. Citizen's Comments:** None

**5. Request for Agenda Adjustments:** Motion by Young to add RMP Fishing Deck Project to Agenda for discussion by the Commission/support from Spears.

**6. Reports:**

**a. Parks Director:** Provided to Commissioners in Board packets

**b. Treasurer:** Report provided in packets

**c. Commission Chair:**

Chairperson Law clarified that the Township's work-study meetings are held from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. on only the first Monday of the month, preceding the regular meeting.

**7. Business:**

**a. 2016 Annual Report**

Motion by Spears/support from Joling to accept the 2016 Annual Report as presented  
5 Yes/ 0 No

**b. RMP Fishing Deck discussion**

Discussion of the citizens' concerns continued. In principle, there was support for park access for the public in the park (especially handicapped access), but also concern about moving ahead rapidly with the project relative to cost-benefit questions (is there demand? liability?) and the

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necessity for good stewardship of resources – e.g. is there potential harm from this project (increasing bioburden and potentially invasive species (from birds attracted to the deck/poop and bait-guts dumping)) in view of the existing problem with bioburden near the swimming area? It was also felt that it was important to be responsive to the citizens who expressed their concerns by providing more information/data and another input meeting.

In order to meet the April 1, 2017 application deadline, Motion was made by Weir/support from Joling to proceed with the application with option to rescind.  
2 Yes/2 No. The motion was not carried. The application effort will be postponed for 1 year.

**8. Announcements: None**

Motion adjourned at 9:05 P.M. The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 13 at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Teresa Young, Secretary